

## More Air Force aircraft to perform at this year's air show

A B-1B "Lancer" bomber from the Georgia Air National Guard will fly during the Point Mugu Air Show April 19-21.

Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu's first visit of a B-1B bomber was Feb. 27, 1992 when Point Mugu hosted the 384<sup>th</sup> BW based at McConnell AFB, Kan., when the B-1B came here for tests.

The first flight of the B-1B was accomplished in October 1984 as the then Strategic Air Command (today the Air Combat Command) took possession in 1985 of the Lancer. A total of 100 B-1Bs were manufactured.

Today, the B-1B is taking part in Operation Enduring Freedom and has been used in Afghanistan.

Security screening will be in place for air show events. All vehicles and personnel entering the base are subject to search. Naval Base Ventura County strongly encourages guests to minimize the number of items carried into the air show area. The base will not hold prohibited items for guests.

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to backpacks, coolers of any size, pets, glass bottles, illegal drugs, alcohol, skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, scooters, weapons, knives and explosives.

Prohibited items and items determined to not appropriate for entry into the air show will be the responsibility of the guest and cannot be accepted or checked in by Naval Base Ventura County.



The B-1B bomber's three internal weapons bays can accommodate up to 84 Mk-82 bombs.

## Local Navy Exchange boasts record sales



BU2 Victor Gonzalez of 31st NCR looks over the CD selection at the Port Hueneme NEX.

By Kim Upshaw

*Lighthouse Staff*

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – For the local patrons of the NEX here, things just keep getting better and better, and the \$5.8 million increase in sales over the past two years shows that customers are finding the store more accessible to their needs.

In a retail market that has suffered dramatically after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the local exchange continues to show growth in all areas. "The constant changing and moving of merchandise is done to make the store more 'shoppable'," said Sante Campanile, store manager of both NBVC exchange locations. "We remodeled the Point Mugu store, remodeled the furniture gallery on Port Hueneme, doubled the size of the shoe department and increased both the size of and the merchandise in the electronics department by more than 50 percent."

The changes made by the NEX are all about making the store a better place to shop for military members and their families. "We offer, like many of our competitors, a low price guarantee," said Campanile. "While we always strive to have the lowest price on any given merchandise, sometimes our competitors will offer an item at a lower price for their weekly sale. When that happens we will match that competitor's sale price to ensure our customer gets the lowest price they can on any given item."

The Port Hueneme NEX is one of the top performing stores, outperforming many of the larger stores within the region and district as well. Campanile attributes this to the store's policy of listening to the customers and getting them what they need. "We will continue to listen to and lobby for our customers," said Campanile.

Some of the more recent changes to the NEX include the addition of shoe repair to both of the stores. A watch and jewelry repair is also in the works, and patrons will now be able to cash checks at designated check-out registers within the exchange, eliminating the need to go to a check cashing window during the regular check cashing hours.

Also on the table for renovations is the Point Mugu Autoport, which will be upgraded to the same type of fuel dispenser now in use on Port Hueneme, allowing for 24-hour gas service for patrons who are willing to pay with a credit card. "The number of dispensers will be doubled from four to eight and a new canopy with a better lighting system will be installed as well," said Campanile. "The hope is that this project will begin sometime in April, though nothing is concrete at this time." Once the project is started it should take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

With all of these changes it is easy to see why patrons are willing to shop the improved NEX store. After all, a store with outstanding customer service, low prices and a wide variety of quality merchandise is hard to beat.

UCT-2 helps in effort to maintain underwater cables between Point Mugu and SNI ... Page 6

'Hawkeye' makes history arresting on and launching from French aircraft carrier... Page 8

# Military, civilian DoD can buy new long-term care insurance

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A new program starting later this month will offer long-term care insurance to military and civilian federal employees and their families.

The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide this additional benefit for all federal employees and retirees.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term medical care in a nursing home or in the patient's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves and their spouses in the program, according to information on the program's Internet home page, [www.opm.gov/insure/ltc](http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc).

An early enrollment period is scheduled from March 25 to May 15, followed by an open-enrollment season beginning July 1. Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed

personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Program managers haven't announced premiums yet, but rates will vary based on amount of coverage, type of inflation protection chosen and current age of the person being covered. Officials plan to include a rate calculator on the Web site by the time the early enrollment period starts.

Service members and federal civilian workers initially might think they needn't worry about long-term care insurance, but perhaps they should, officials said. Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program are not designed to cover long-term care, they noted.

The usual practice in similar civilian programs is the younger and healthier the beneficiary at enrollment, the lower the premiums. That should also be true in the federal version, said Frank Titus, OPM assistant director for long-term care.

Federal officials emphasized the government pays no part of the premiums or benefits.

Those officials recommended individuals who want more information on issues surrounding long-term care and on the federal program to sign up for an e-mail newsletter, "Get Smart About Your Future," at [https://ltcfeds.com/pre\\_reg.html](https://ltcfeds.com/pre_reg.html), or to visit [www.ltcfeds.com](http://www.ltcfeds.com).



## ITEMPO road show coming

The ITEMPO road show team will be visiting areas around the world from 26mar02 through 19apr02 to provide updated policy and procedural guidance, training, and answer questions pertaining to the navy's ITEMPO program, including the most recent and upcoming ITEMPO policy and system enhancements.

Previous road show presentations included a section specifically targeted toward leadership. However during this ITEMPO visit, while a small portion of the presentation discusses policy issues, the majority of the presentation is detailed and targeted specifically toward ITEMPO managers and end-users as an in-depth training session.

Michael L. McDonald (OPNAV N13T4), deputy ITEMPO policy manager will be giving the briefing to the Ventura County activities from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., March 27 at Needham Theater. The first hour will be a leadership briefing for CO/XO/CMDCMS. After a short break, the remaining time will be spent as an in-depth training session for Admin/PERS officers, LCPOS, leading PN/YNs, etc.

Funding constraints make it impossible to provide this detailed ITEMPO training to every navy unit location. Therefore, whenever possible, commands are encouraged to send their representatives to a road show location to receive the presentation. However, higher echelon commands (CINCPAC/TYCOM/group/squadron) are encouraged to liaison with OPNAV N13 and NPC PERS 33, if necessary, regarding the possibility for onboard training at units that have indicated or reflected a need for personal, in-depth ITEMPO training.

## The Lighthouse

The Official Newspaper of the Ventura County Navy Community

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## Local students make quilt for Pentagon



PH3 Brian Bynem

Santa Susana Elementary School principal Dr. Robin Hunter and student council president Amanda Holt present a quilt made by the Santa Susana Elementary School in Simi Valley to Capt. Rainwater. Each class made one square of the quilt in honor of the Pentagon attack victims, Sept. 11. NBVC is arranging to send the quilt to the Pentagon to display on behalf of the school students.

# If you should ask me...

## How have activated reservists affected you?



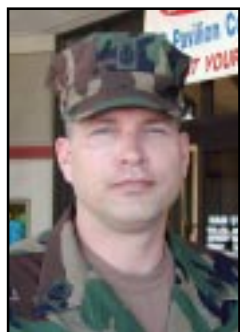
They are keeping me from working out at LAX or the gate, when I need to be here with my battalion, training.

CM3(SCW) Gail Best, NMCB-40

They are taking up the slack here so that we can be out doing what we are trained for.



CM2 (SCW) Abel Gutierrez, NMCB-40



The reservists bring lots of civilian trades and know how into their active duty military counterparts.

SWC Michael Grogan, CBMU-202

They help with Homeland Security anti-terrorism staffing.



Lt. j.g. Sheri Gates, CBMU-303



They are really helping with the security forces here.

YN2 (SCW) Jennifer Williams, NBVC

## Seeking Science Fair Judges

We're looking for a few good men and women with some science in their background to volunteer to be a science fair judge for our community. If you want to volunteer, contact Pat Hollenbaugh, NBVC community relations officer, either by e-mail at [hollenbaughp@nbvc.navy.mil](mailto:hollenbaughp@nbvc.navy.mil), or call 989-1704. Make sure you go through your proper chain of command for approval to volunteer.

Ventura County Science Fair, Ventura County Fair Grounds. POC: Lermra Hernandez, (805) 388-4410, <http://www.vcsf.ws>, Date of science fair: April 24.

## Bring Your Children to Work Day

Mark your calendars for, "Bring Your Children to Work Day," April 25. This annual event brings our military bases and families together. The event offers you and your children a time to bond and to share with them what you do all day when they are in school. You also can learn something about what other tenant commands are doing with some planned tours.

Plan on doing something with your children for lunch and then take them to your work site to see what you do there. Watch for more details and information in the coming weeks.

## Admiral's Cup duathlon

Saturday, March 23 at 9 a.m., Point Mugu. Sprint Course – 3 mile run, 10 mile bike ride, 3 mile run. Relay teams welcome. Call 989-7940 for more information.

## Ticket and Travel Office

- **Glory of Easter at the Crystal Cathedral**, Saturday, March 23, 2-10 p.m., \$35 per person.
- **The Lion King** at the Pantages Theater, no host dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory, Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., \$95 per person includes center orchestra seating & transportation.

## NAVSOC Anniversary

NAVSOC celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a two-day schedule of special events to mark the occasion. The celebration begins April 24, with a social followed by a golf tournament at the Camarillo Springs Golf Course, tours of NAVSOC headquarters at Point Mugu, and a dinner-dance at the Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo.

For more information on NAVSOC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities, visit the web at <http://www.navsoc.com> (unofficial) or fax Paul Lagana at (805) 989-4313.

## NMCRS Fund Drive

The Annual Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive had their kickoff meeting Monday to officially mark the beginning of this year's drive. The fund drive lasts for one month and will run conclude on April 8. Contact your command representative to contribute.

All money raised goes directly to help Sailors and Marines. Last year, with your help, NMCRS raised over \$90,000 in Ventura. The society handled 714 cases providing \$316,000 in interest-free loans and \$16,000 in grants to Sailors and Marines in Ventura County. Contact Lt. Tim Lamb at 989-0909 or Lt. Ken Ball at 989-8891 for more information.

## PSD note

PSD requires that all E6 and below personnel who require a replacement of lost or stolen ID cards, must have an approved request chit from their parent command.

## Preliminary school physicals

Preliminary School Physicals will be done in the Primary Care Clinic on March 22 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Please bring the Report of Health Examination for School Entry form provided by the school, and the shot record.

For more information, contact Lt. Lee Wallenhorst at 982-6200.

## Seabee Days logo contest

Enter the Seabee Days Logo Contest for an opportunity to win a \$300 gift certificate, and be part of the Seabee Days 2002 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Seabees. The winning logo will be featured on Seabee Days flyers, posters and fun-run T-shirts. Seabee Days 2002 will be held July 27-28. Logo Contest dates are March 1 - 31, with announcement of winning entry in April. For questions, contact Linda Wadley, Naval Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme (NCBC PH) public affairs at (805) 982-2056.

## Base operations airfield certification training

If you have not attend the Base Operations, Airfield Certification Brief within the last 12 calendar months and your duties require for you to operate a vehicle within Pt. Mugu's airfield movement area, you must attend an Airfield Certification Brief; normally scheduled for the first and third Wednesday of the month, at 1300 in the Base Operations Conference Room (Bldg #355, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2201).

Contact the Base Operations ODO at 989-8521 and reserve your seat for the next class.

## New "preschool in motion" class

For 3 to 5-year-olds on Monday and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Port Hueneme Youth Center. Call 982-4726 or 982-4218 for information.

## Military dependent scholarship award

The Officers' Spouses' Club of Naval Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme is offering scholarships to college bound dependents of either active duty or retired service persons of Naval Base Ventura County (Port Hueneme and Point Mugu sites) or one of its tenant commands.

Applicants must plan to attend full time classes in an accredited college, technical, or trade school in the 2002-2003 school year.

Scholarship applications detailing all requirements are available through area high school career counselors and from the Resource Centers (libraries) at the Port Hueneme and Point Mugu sites.

Completed applications must be received by April 15, 2002. Any questions should be directed to the scholarship chairperson at 647-7322.

# NWTS announces top Bloodhounds for 2001

By Carolanne Sacry

NAWCWD TID

"My life belongs to the community... and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can ... Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

— George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright

Such is the attitude of each of this year's recipients of the prestigious Test Pilot, Test Naval Flight Officer, and Flight Test Engineer of the Year, Naval Weapons Test Squadron Point Mugu. The winners are Lt. Cassidy "Dudley" Norman — Test Pilot of the Year, Lt. Kenneth "Norm" Bates — Test Naval Flight Officer of the Year, and Lou Jablonicky — Flight Test Engineer of the Year.

Cmdr. Wade Knudson, NWTSPM chief test pilot, stated, "Each of this year's winners has contributed significantly to NAVAIR's mission, ensuring the fleet receives the best aircraft and weapons. Their professional expertise and dedication to duty have distinguished them from their peers."

In addition to the traditional plaques for the recipients, a wall plaque will be added to the Test Wing Pacific building in Point Mugu, listing the names of current and previous recipients, allowing for additional names each year.

"We want the future generations in NAVAIR to see these names posted. Lots of these guys have aspirations and may even become astronaut selectees. NASA selects folks with a test pilot background. I expect we'll eventually see some of our folks going on to NASA," Knudson said.

## Test Pilot

Norman joined the NWTS Bloodhounds in March 2001, quickly blazing trails that will "forever change test opportunities for F/A-18 projects throughout the Naval Test Wing Pacific," according to Flight Test Officer Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Swenson, F-14 IPT Lead. "Lt. Norman's precedent-setting leadership in working with NWTSPM and NWTSCS has paved the way for all projects to efficiently and effectively use F/A-18s when testing at various locations."

Norman travels to China Lake often to fly the F/A-18 Super Hornet. In his first two months as project officer, Norman gained currency in the F/A-18 while simultaneously leading other projects that needed interim leadership because of billet gaps.

Norman said, "I have always been interested in the T&E side of the Navy and was thrilled when I was selected for United States Naval Test Pilot School."

His career history includes fleet replacement training at NAS Lemoore before deployment with VFA-192, the Golden Dragons — from which he flew F/A-18C Hornets on three deployments from NAF Atsugi Japan, including two summer cruises to the Persian Gulf. Norman then attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River, Md. Upon graduation, he came to Point Mugu as the AMRAAM/ITALD project officer, and Navy Combat Archer Program coordinator.

Recognized for his strong work ethic, team-player attitude, and a genuine devotion to flight testing, Norman has contributed to significant advancements in many projects.

"His dedicated efforts in maximizing test efficiency in his own projects, as well as his dedicated support of many other projects throughout the airwing, have led to outstanding achievements — providing the fleet with better weapons," Knudson said. "He is a proven test pilot whose airmanship, stewardship, and leadership are unsurpassed. I couldn't be happier with the work he has done."

For his next tour, Norman hopes to join a carrier air wing staff using his experiences. Norman, with time in more than 20 different aircraft, said, "My recent flight test experience in the Hornet, Super Hornet and Tomcat gives me a well-rounded knowledge of several aircraft used in carrier air wings."

"This award reflects the great opportunities I've had this past year to work with the outstanding test teams at Point Mugu and China Lake. Although the projects have consistently required much more than 40 hours a week, it's been worth it. I am happy to take part in the advancement of weapon systems. The Naval Test Wing Pacific has a strong dedication in supporting the fleet and I'm happy to be on this great team."

## Test Naval Flight Officer

"The No. 1 project officer the IPT has had in years. Lt. Kenneth Bates is the leader, communicator, and technical expert that every project officer should aspire to," said Swenson.

Bates, the F-14D upgrade project officer, learned of his selection as the Test Naval Flight Officer of the Year through an all-hands email from his chief test pilot. "This really validates the work I'm doing and I feel pretty psyched. It's nice to be recognized for my efforts."

Bates works many 10 to 12-hour days in addition to weekends and flex Fridays, when most of the members of his team are not in the office. "Still, it's great to go home every night rather than being deployed on a ship for months," he said.

Bates graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Md., before



Official U.S. Navy photo

**Best of the best—Bloodhounds (l-r) Cmdr. Wade "Torch" Knudson, Lt. Kenneth "Norm" Bates, Lou Jablonicky, Lt. Cassidy "Dudley" Norman, Commanding Officer Capt. Dave "Rock" Madsen and Dan Radke after the award ceremony.**

arriving in Point Mugu in February 2001. Commissioned in 1993, his career history includes a three-year deployment with the VF-2 Bounty Hunters based at NAS Oceana. While flying the F-14D Tomcat fighters, Bates enjoyed two deployments to the Persian Gulf where he "got to drop bombs and dig big holes in the desert over there."

As aircrew representative for the Flight Test Team, his responsibilities include conveyance of all F-14D problems experienced within the fleet to the engineering team. He assists in the design and evaluation of upgrades, working with fleet-directed requirements.

Swenson said, "Lt. Bates rises above and beyond expectations with his management of the flight test effort, earning the respect of his teammates and for his team from outside the IPT. He has the acute ability to translate desires of the fleet to the engineering team while conveying the message to the fleet that we are doing everything we can for them. Lt. Bates is not just a member — he is the leader of the Flight Test Team — bringing together the ideal combination of skills in program management and competence as a fleet operator to best benefit the F-14D."

## Flight Test Engineer of the Year

"I was very surprised when I received an email from a working associate at China Lake congratulating me on this award," said electrical engineer Lou Jablonicky.

He stressed that he is a part of a team, and he's proud of the company he keeps.

"The people that I work with in my office — we're a team. I feel very pleased to work with these guys, particularly Stuart Baker, Tom Schell and Mike Golshani. This award is an acknowledgement that the team is doing a good job. I may be the guy that got the award, but it was the team that did the job."

Jablonicky has been in the Test and Evaluation Engineering Department assigned to the AMRAAM IPT for 12 years.

His job has two aspects: working with the Navy Combat Archer Program, which gives direct support to the fleet, and as an engineer in the Flight Test Office for AMRAAM. Jablonicky doesn't work directly for the squadron but with them. "The test pilots support our test efforts in developmental testing for the missile," he said. Jablonicky also said he feels "honored being able to contribute; to give something back to the fleet. I have tremendous respect for people in the military. My work gives me an opportunity to help those guys out there putting their lives on the line."

"My whole impression of the Navy prior to coming to Point Mugu was developed from the WWII stories my dad told," he continued. "He didn't look at his being a Sailor in the war as a great adventure."

Through the Navy Combat Archer Program, Jablonicky had the opportunity to spend time on a ship.

"I was very surprised at how young the troops were but was astounded at the level of competence, politeness and professionalism. I normally am working with scientists, engineers and pilots — people like that. When I got out there on the boat, I was with Sailors. I was very impressed with the job they did. When I get up to China Lake to work with the aircraft-maintenance people, I'm again just very impressed with the work the Sailors do — their responsiveness, knowledge and intelligence."

Jablonicky said he'd like to continue working in the flight test area. "I find it exciting and fun." Preferring to "stay technical," Jablonicky said he wants to keep working with the fleet in developmental testing and "support the job the troops are doing out there."

In his closing remarks about the winners, Knudson said, "They have the commitment and drive necessary to make the projects succeed with no tangible reward. They put in their extra time and effort solely because of their commitment to NAVAIR's mission and to the fleet."



## CO gets his wish

By JO2 Lynn Kirby

*Lighthouse staff*

POINT MUGU, Calif.—Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) recently joined the ranks with other naval air stations across the world when Capt. James W. Rainwater, NBVC commanding officer, landed a C-12F *Huron* logistics aircraft at the Point Mugu airfield. The C-12F, which now belongs to NBVC, will be an integral asset to the Navy in Ventura County.

The aircraft will be used for logistical support to NBVC and its tenant commands. It will be used in missions such as transporting medical patients to San Diego, parts and equipment to the Seabees, personnel to and from meetings, as well as a wide range of other missions, said Rainwater.

The aircraft, however, is not yet ready to start supporting these missions.

See AIRCRAFT, page 7



PH3 Brian Bynem

**Capt. Jim Rainwater was recently able to take delivery of a long-awaited "base aircraft."**

## UCT-2 surveys underwater fiber optic cables

By SW1(SCW/DV)  
Michael Jenkins &  
CEC(SCW/DV)  
Edward Richard

*For UCT-2 Public Affairs*

San Nicolas Island (SNI) sits about 60 miles southwest of Point Mugu. While this distance is a relatively short distance to fly, it's a very long distance to run fiber optic cable underwater.

During the month of January, Underwater Construction Team (UCT) Two Air Detachment Bravo completed urgently needed preliminary preventative maintenance and repair to two fiber optic cables off the coast of SNI. These critical fiber optic cables link the Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) at Pt. Mugu with NAWC SNI. If the link ever broke, transmission of all advanced analytical communications, telemetry, and statistical data from the island would cease.

Each fiber optic cable is protected at its seashore interface by oilfield drill tubing. Destructive winter storms and perilous ocean conditions throughout the past four years severely damaged these cables to the point of severance. That is, until the proficient men and women of UCT-2 stepped into action and immediately challenged the inevitable energies of nature by implementing a little "Can-Do", Seabee fortitude. Once on the ground, the 13 highly skilled underwater construction



SW1(SCW/DV) Michael Jenkins

**UT2(DV) Gilbert Negrette performs pre-dive safety checks.**

technicians of Air Detachment Bravo began conducting deep-water inspections along the cable's treacherous ocean floor route.

The diving Seabees swam the length of the fiber optic cables and performed a series of inspections to a depth of 95 feet of seawater using underwater video cameras. Every time a damaged section was located, the coordinates were documented, verified, and mapped for future repairs. UCT-2 also performed a hydrographic survey along each cable route. The data was entered into the UCT's Specialized Hydrographic Reconnaissance Chart (SHRC), which displays each coordinate to pinpoint the damaged and vulnerable areas.

UCT-2 will return to SNI for continued action this spring.

## Dental technician to attend 2-year hygienist school

By JO1(SW) Dave Hites

*Lighthouse Editor*

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – The Navy has been offering Sailors more and more incentives to stay Navy. For some, it's a better opportunity to advance, for others, a selective reenlistment bonus (SRB). For DT3 Brenda Gaul, it was a two-year hygienist school that convinced her to give the Navy six more years, with an SRB incentive to pass.

"Once I get out of the school, I'll get an SRB," said Gaul. She has already started earning that SRB, meeting the prerequisites the school requires.

"I've been taking courses at night for about a year," she said. "I had to take chemistry, human anatomy and physiology, English composition and college algebra."

While Gaul is attending school at Costal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, N.C., she will still be earning 3<sup>rd</sup> class pay and other allowances, with the Navy also picking up the cost of tuition and books. All told, the Navy will fork over \$100,000 in return for a badly needed hygienist.

Dental technicians in the Navy are plentiful, but without specialized training, their

duties are limited as well as their opportunities. "The technician is only allowed to work above the gum line. A hygienist can work below the gum line and perform anesthesia," explained Gaul.

Once she completes the school, Gaul will be eligible for assignment worldwide, wherever the Navy needs her. It's a requirement of attending the school, but that's just fine with Gaul. "I've been in for four years and plan to do 20. I like what the Navy has to offer," she said.

Gaul loves her work, but is ready for a more challenging work environment. "After assisting for two years, I am looking forward to working more independently." The Navy has already sent her to an expanded functions training class, a supplement to the 8-week technician school. While there, she learned how to pack and compound fillings, take impressions of teeth, place sealants and make temporary crowns.

Gaul admits it has not been easy juggling work and school, not to mention studying for the Navywide advancement exam, and attributes part of her success to the great staff she works with at the Port Hueneme Dental Clinic.

Gaul expressed her gratitude, saying "Thanks to everyone at the clinic for your support."



PH3 Brian Bynem

**Port Hueneme Branch Dental Clinic Director, Capt. Michael McNamara, explains to DT3 Brenda Gaul what a final impression looks like.**

# Antarctic Explorers to hold first national reunion

By Jim O’Connell  
*OAEA Secretary/Treasurer*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Since the 1950’s, men and women have been going to Antarctica in support of Antarctic research. These men and women, both military and civilians, affectionately referred to each other as OAEs (A military acronym that stands for Old Antarctic Explorers). In early 1999 the last major military organization was decommissioned. The ceremony attracted OAEs from across the country, who gathered at Point Mugu for a bittersweet farewell to an experience of a lifetime.

Later that same year, a number of these OAEs came together through the technology of the Internet. They did not want the memories of the *Antarctic Experience* to fade

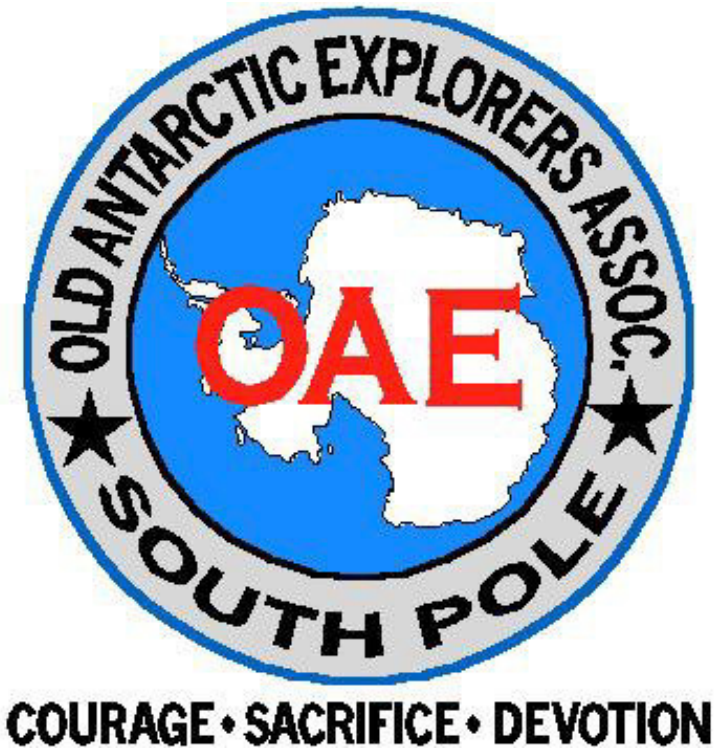
and this desire ultimately grew into what become the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc., (OAEA) with national headquarters here.

One of the chartered purposes of the OAEA is to promote and perpetuate public awareness of the courage, sacrifice and devotion its members exhibited while on the Antarctic continent, including continued recognition of at least 55 OAEs that gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in support of Antarctic research programs. These included military code names such as Operation High Jump and Operation Deep Freeze.

Desiring to meet their goals, the OAEA has announced it will conduct its first national symposium/reunion here Nov. 6-8. The city of Pensacola is looking forward to this gathering, as it will be a historic event by all standards. OAEA members have gone on to innumerable professions and a myriad of lifestyles spread throughout the United States and abroad. Through all of this diversity, the common core of fellowship through the *Antarctic Experience* has kept these people bonded for life.

The OAEA is still in its infant stages and knowledge of its existence has not reached the thousands of people who have shared the *Antarctic Experience*. The membership registration of these people is being actively solicited. More information on the OAEA can be found at [www.oaea.net](http://www.oaea.net). From here, you can download the membership application. Interested parties can also send an e-mail to [penguin64@att.net](mailto:penguin64@att.net) or write the OAEA at 4615 Balmoral Drive, Pensacola, FL 32504.

OAEA members can obtain reunion information by contacting the OAEA Reunion Committee, OAEA Reunion Committee, P. O. Box 34455, Pensacola, FL 32507-4455.



## AIRCRAFT, from page 6

“We have to get the aircrew all trained and then we’ll be able to start flying missions in a couple of months,” Said Rainwater. So far, NBVC and Navy Satellite Operations Center personnel will be piloting the aircraft.

In the January 2001 issue of the Lighthouse, Rainwater was quoted as saying his new year’s resolution was to get an aircraft for NBVC. While the planning and fighting for the aircraft started before 2001, Rainwater was finally able to meet his resolution, though a little later than he would’ve liked. “The good news is we finally have it. After three years of fighting for it (the C-12), it’s here,” Rainwater said.

Many commands will be able to utilize this new addition to the Ventura County Navy, saving funding from transporting personnel and cargo by other means. “I think it (the C-12) will save money for everyone involved,” said Rainwater.

The C-12F *Huron* is a twin-engine logistics aircraft capable of a total payload of up to 4,215 pounds. It is manufactured by Raytheon Aircraft Company for the military and costs \$2 million.



PH3 Brian Bynem

**The C-12 Huron provides operational support for military bases, sites, fleet and shore units. NBVC obtained the plane from AIRPAC.**

# Golden Hawks make historic landing aboard French carrier



Official U.S. Navy photo  
VAW-112 recently landed and catapulted off of the French aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle*. The French carrier's flight deck is only 3/4 as long as a US carrier, testing the skills of the pilot and co-pilot.

By Lt. Chito Peppler

*USS John C. Stennis Public Affairs*

On Feb. 28, the "Golden Hawks" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 112 (VAW-112) made history by being the first wing from the Pacific Fleet to make an arrested landing and catapult launch from a French carrier, demonstrating multinational capabilities between our two navies.

The mission was flown in Ghost 600, an E-2C Hawkeye from the "Golden Hawks" of VAW-112 with Lt. Cmdr. Jay Elliott as pilot, Lt. Geoff McAlwee as copilot and Lt. Pat Haley as mission commander.

For Elliott, this project was born two years ago, during his last job. "I was a test pilot working with the combined French, U.S. test team at Lakehurst, N.J. testing out Hawkeyes on French variants of U.S. catapults and arresting gear. This mission gave me a great feeling because it provided closure," said Elliott.

"The meatball (lens) was clear. The French use a Fresnel lens, which is similar to the one we used on our last deployment, so we are very familiar with it and the glide slope was

extremely smooth through the approach turn," said McAlwee.

"Since the Charles de Gaulle is considerably shorter than *USS John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), 860 feet long compared to 1,092 feet, we were concerned that the runway would be too short," said Elliott. "Initially, as we caught the wire, I felt that we were getting close to the end, but in actuality it was like grabbing the number 4 wire on a U.S. carrier." French carriers have three wires vice four aboard U.S. carriers.

In addition, three Landing Signals Officers (LSO) from JCS were on the Charles De Gaulle to assist with the approach and landing of this historic event as well as to share notes.

"Once on deck, the director's signals were smooth, although there were slight differences from what we were used to," said McAlwee. "The learning curve was

steep at first, but after a few minutes, it became intuitively easy. Any of our pilots could do this."

"It was very exciting to see the teamwork that transpired. The performance of the aircrew, the LSOs and the flight deck team demonstrates first hand the readiness and ingenuity of our air wing and coalition," said Rear Adm. James Zortman, Commander, Carrier Group Seven.

"Lt. Cmdr. Elliott flew several great passes, culminating with the final trap. The French were wonderful hosts, and were completely excited to have a U.S. Navy Hawkeye fly onboard to further demonstrate the commonality between our approaches to carrier-based power projection. It was a unique experience for us as LSOs to compare notes with French LSOs and pilots on launch and

recovery operations aboard our respective carriers," said Lt. Cmdr. Erik Etz, CVW-9 LSO. "This truly is an international operation here in the North Arabian Sea, and it was great to see a Hawkeye with U.S. Navy markings launching under the French flag."

"Cross-decking a USN E-2C onto a French carrier is a great opportunity and it demonstrates the similarities between the navies of our two seafaring nations," said Capt. Don Quinn, Commander, CVW-9. "I know Capt. Marty Allard, commanding officer of *USS Bataan* and former Commander, U.S. Naval Air Atlantic LSO, would have really enjoyed this event. The people involved on both sides really enjoyed it and we look forward to hosting a French E-2C over here on *USS John C. Stennis*."

"More than having a divert ship, cross-decking E2C's today, and Hornets and Rafales tomorrow, demonstrates that real Tailhookers have no borders. Our ships are different, our aircraft are different, but our spirit is the same: flat top, steel and jet blast," said Cmdr. Laurent "Larry" Caillard, commander of the French Air Wing.

After the landing, the aircrew was congratulated and then they taxied their Hawkeye to Catapult #1 for a capston launch, another Pacific first.

"This was a wonderful experience and a highlight of my deployment. I would definitely love to do this again," said Elliott.



Official U.S. Navy photo  
A "Hawkeye" prepares to launch off the French carrier *de Gaulle*.

# NMCB-4 helping in African UN effort

By CEC (SCW) Robert Lopez  
*For NMCB-4 Public Affairs*

DILI, East Timor – In early February, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, (NMCB) Four sent a 10-man Deployment for Training here.

The DFT is attached to United States Support Group East Timor, and is tasked with repairing two water treatment plants while showing U.S. presence in East Timor. East Timor is now coming into the final phase of a United Nations effort to help build a new government and a new independent nation by May 20.

The DFT from NMCB-4 represents one of 120 countries that are here to support and give humanitarian relief and peacekeeping to East Timor. The East Timor Detail consists of UT1 Lonnie Cosper as the Assistant Officer-in-Charge, SW2 (SCW) Michael Shepherd, UT2 (SCW) Daniel Aubrey, CE3 Jacob Balaam, SW3 Donavan Maloney, BU3 Justin Gomez, UT3 David Kaylor, BU3 Michael Majors and CECN Yancey Barnes.

This highly motivated and dedicated group of Seabees is putting the “Can-Do” spirit to work at two water treatment facilities in the villages of Bemos and Lahane. They are replacing a ten-inch water distribution line that feeds the village of Bemos, repairing the backwash system to five tanks that has been nonexistent for a year and repairing minor electrical and structural damage.

“Hearing the local children shouting out America’s name while we drive to the project site everyday makes me proud of who I am and what I am doing here,” Balaam stated. “I want to work harder and give these people some quality work when I hear them say America,” adds Barnes.

The work that the Seabees are doing here will help improve the water treatment process for potable water to the villages of Bemos and Lahane. While the DFT is working, they get a lot of local nationals coming up and watching the work in progress. “Especially the children,” Cosper adds. “They are very interested in what we are doing and how we do it.”

Along with their assigned projects, the DFT also volunteers to provide technical

assistance to the amphibious transport dock *USS Juneau* (LPD 10) in support of community projects. When the DFT was asked who would like to volunteer their time, every Seabee raised his hand. “This is what being a Seabee is all about,” Gomez added. Aubrey has also volunteered to do an assessment of a water line in need of great repair on the island of Atauro.

The DFT departs East Timor this month, leaving behind quality work and a positive impression on the local people.



NMCB-4’s Detail East Timor. Official U.S. Navy photo

# Seabees test their communications training

By JO1 (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky

NMCB-5 Public Affairs

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Communication is the key to any military unit's success. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Five recently validated the importance of their communicators' proficiency by conducting a communications field exercise (CPX), outside of the battalion's spaces at Building 1437, Construction Battalion Center, here.

The CPX was designed to provide combat operations center (COC) watch standers with a real-life contingency training scenario that allows the battalion the opportunity to train and evaluate their communication watch standers.

"Communications school teaches theory, but CPX allows the communication watch stander to put that theory to practice in a real-world situation," said Communications Supervisor Petty Officer Second Class Robert Mason, Headquarters Company, NMCB-5.

During the CPX, all of the participants participated in a simulated real-time communication-oriented contingency situation. A variety of communication scenarios with inherent training opportunities were presented to the communicators throughout the day. Partial messages, improper communication procedures and simulated CBR conditions were introduced to the watch standers to test their level of knowledge, measure their response time and enhance their training so that communicators are well prepared to deploy in

a contingency situation.

"We learn to recognize different priorities of messages, how to send and receive them, how to respond to different kinds of messages such as MEDEVAC's, bomb threats, communication security, convoys and more. There's no way we would be able to function as well as we need to out in the field without conducting CPX's. During a CPX, instructors pull out all the stops when it comes to the different kinds of situations so that when the real thing finally does come, none of our watch standers have to deal with any surprises," said Mason.

Having no surprises is a welcome thought to one of NMCB-5's newest communicators, Petty Officer Second Class Christopher Frederick, a phone talker with Headquarters Company. "This is my first CPX," said Frederick, "And I am glad I'm here because I'm learning a lot."

Although Frederick is relatively new to the communication job, he has already reaped the benefits that NMCB-5's training focuses on by training through small unit leadership. "As soon as I became a member of the communications platoon, all of the watch standers immediately began to help me out in learning my job," he said. "Everyone with any experience was able to answer all of my questions about all of the jobs inside the COC."

Knowing what your job is and doing it well is the mark of a true professional. NMCB-5 prides itself on being called "The Professionals" and thanks to the CPX, the battalion's training department is doing everything it can to make sure its Seabees live up to that reputation.



JO1 (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky

Petty Officer 3rd Class Annie Lacefield, Headquarters Company, talks on a TA-312 field phone during NMCB-5's CPX.

# NMCB-40 raises broom for ‘clean sweep’

By JO1 Greg Frazho

NMCB 40 Public Affairs

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Quick, think of your favorite submarine movie. *Run Silent, Run Deep*; *The Enemy Below*; *Das Boot*; *The Hunt for Red October*; *Down Periscope*; *Crimson Tide*; *U-571*. All of these are classics in American and international cinema, and the images they evoke can be both frightening, yet endearing.

If you’ve ever been up to Pier 45 in San Francisco, you might have taken a tour of *USS Pampanito* (SS-383), a World War II-era submarine that was used to film *Down Periscope*. If you took a look at her conning tower, you probably noticed a strange thing. There’s a whisk broom sticking straight up from the top of the tower. During those days, it was displayed to indicate that the submarine flying the broom had completed a successful war patrol.

The Seabees of NMCB-40 recently flew their own broom, as did all the units of the Third Naval Construction Brigade. The occasion was for achieving exceptionally high retention numbers in the “war on attrition” for Fiscal Year 2001. Commander, Third Naval Construction Brigade, Rear Adm. Charles Kubic, made the announcement from his headquarters via message.

“I am extremely proud that all four Pacific Fleet Seabee Battalions recently won the CINCPACFLT Retention Excellence Award for FY-01,” he said. “Moreover, the Third Brigade headquarters staff, the 31<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Regiment and Construction Battalion Unit 416 in Fallon also won this award, giving Pacific Fleet Seabees an unprecedented clean sweep.”

The admiral went on to say that the aforementioned units were authorized to fly a masonry broom from their flagstaffs from sunrise to sunset on the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Seabees. In accordance with the admiral’s wishes, Fighting 40 did their part and hoisted a broom with the battalion flag to the top of their flagstaff. A rarity in the fleet, raising a broom at morning colors has never been done before in battalion.

Then again, retention has never been better in NMCB-40. “I think most people like being in NMCB 40,” said CMDMC(SCW) Philip Devine, the command master chief of Fighting 40. “We challenge them and we take care of them. We don’t focus on their retention, we focus on giving them all the necessary information they need to make a conscious decision to stay in the Navy or go in to the civilian sector. Most folks find with the information we give them that they want to stay Navy.”

**MAC Greg Boniface and BU3(SCW) Robert Moore of NMCB-40 prepare a masonry broom for hoisting up the battalion’s flagstaff. NMCB-40, as well as all Seabee units in the Pacific Fleet were authorized to fly a broom signifying a clean sweep in retention for Fiscal Year 2001.**



# NMCI – portable and embarkable workstations

**George Ramirez**

*NBVC NMCI Customer Technical Representative*

As discussed in the previous issue, the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) service will replace existing computers with new systems. In addition to fixed workstations, there are a variety of Portable and Embarkable Seat options that are available through the NMCI contract, including services for government furnished computers. Following are general descriptions of the main contract line item numbers (CLINs) relating to the Portable and Embarkable seat options.

With the exception of government furnished computers, the following attributes and services are common to most of the following CLINs. Complete specifications for Portable and Embarkable Seats may be found at the NMCI website: <http://www.eds.com/nmci/catalog.htm>

PC hardware, network and security hardware, software, hardware/software maintenance, hardware/software refresh, e-mail, Web access, two unclassified user accounts, network administration, LAN/WAN/MAN connectivity, NIPRNET access, help desk support, desk-side support, shared network printing, network file sharing, directory services, training, one move/add/change per year, network backup and restore, 50MB e-mail/calendar storage per account, and 700MB network personal and 100MB network shared file storage per user account. Personal peripherals such as zip drive, PDA, and personal printers will be purchased through the CLIN 0023 catalog. Portable seats may be combined with CLIN 0007 High-End Seat Upgrade, CLIN 0008 Mission-Critical Seat Upgrade, CLIN 0009 Classified Connectivity Upgrade.

CLIN: 0002 – Portable Seat: provides excellent performance for office productivity software. Ability to support users who

require access to NMCI while away from their office and to make high-quality presentations while on travel. A powerful, flexible mobile solution that moves the way you do.

CLIN 0003AA – Embarkable Workstation: embarkable workstations may be periodically deployed and used in an expeditionary or field environment where the workstation will be subjected to rough handling and climatic extremes. Embarkable workstation seats are capable of interfacing with and being reconfigured for compatibility with IT-21 shipboard networks and the Marine Corps Tactical Network (MCTN). Reconfiguration to interface with IT-21 or other non-NMCI (e.g. Disembarked) network is not the responsibility of the NMCI Information Strike Force. Worldwide support for deployed equipment and software included in this service is provided by the Government. Reconfiguration for return and interface with NMCI is provided by the NMCI Information Strike Force (ISF).

CLIN 0003AB – Government Furnished Embarkable Workstation: this service allows an Embarkable workstation not provided by the NMCI Information Strike Force to have direct, local connectivity to NMCI in accordance with the security requirements and policy of NMCI and receive all basic data seat services. The workstation hardware associated with this seat type is acquired, maintained, and refreshed by the Government and is intended for operating forces and transient users only.

CLIN 0004AA – Embarkable Portable Seat: embarkable portable seats will be periodically deployed and used in an expeditionary or field environment where the workstation will be subjected to rough handling and climatic extremes. Embarkable portable seats shall be capable of interfacing with and being reconfigured for compatibility with IT-21 shipboard networks and MCTN. Reconfiguration to interface with IT-21 or other non-NMCI (e.g. Disembarked) network is not the

responsibility of the NMCI Information Strike Force. Reconfiguration for return and interface with NMCI is the responsibility of the NMCI Strike Force. NMCI services are provided to this SDP only when workstation is in garrison environment.

CLIN 0004AB – Limited Embarkable Workstation (Government Furnished) This seat allows a workstation not provided by the NMCI Information Strike Force to have direct, local connectivity to NMCI in accordance with the security requirements and policy of NMCI and receive all basic data services. The workstation hardware (desktop or portable) associated with this seat are acquired, maintained, and refreshed by the government and is intended for operating forces and transient users only.

The NMCI Information Strike Force will provide the full range of help desk support for this seat except when the cause of a reported problem is the result of workstation hardware or non-standard software failure.

CLIN 0004AC – Non-Ruggedized Deployable Portable. This seat meets all the requirements for a portable seat. Deployable means that the workstation will be periodically deployed and used in an expeditionary or field environment. Non-Ruggedized Deployable portable seats shall be capable of interfacing with, and being reconfigured for, compatibility with IT-21 shipboard networks and MCTN (Marine Corps Tactical Network). Reconfiguration to interface with IT-21 or other non-NMCI (e.g. Disembarked) network is not the responsibility of the contractor. Reconfiguration for return and interface with NMCI is the responsibility of the contractor.

CLIN 0005AA – Basic Hybrid Seat A Basic Hybrid Seat provides access to NMCI with proper authentication and access control for remote users with workstations not pro

**See NMCI Page 23**

# Seabee re-enlists for more than just a check

Story by NC1 (SW) Jerod Chavis

NMCB-4 Public Affairs

CAMP SHIELDS, Okinawa – Many people reenlist for many different reasons. Some re-enlist for advanced technical schools, many re-enlist for a choice duty station or to be closer to their hometowns. That same number also re-enlist for a lucrative Selective Re-Enlistment Bonus (SRB) and many more tack on a few more years for benefits of rate, bonus or not.

For SW3 Richard Tidrick of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four's Charlie Company, it was a combination of incentives. The War Trace, Tenn. native recently received an SRB of \$14,000 for signing on for six more years and advanced training in the Steelworker rate.

"In reality, the SRB incentive was going to end soon, so I took the opportunity to sign on for six years, get a nice hunk of change and reap the technical benefits," Tidrick said shortly after his re-enlistment. "There are a lot of things my wife and I can do with that money."

Tidrick checked into NMCB-4 in June 2001 after spending the first part of his Navy career as a Machinist Mate aboard the amphibious assault ship *USS Portland* (LSD 37), homeported in Little Creek, Virginia. After spending time in the machinery spaces aboard ship, Tidrick opted for a career change.

"I asked my career counselor if there was anything better than conducting boiler room watches and cleaning out the bilges," Tidrick recalled. "When he showed me the op-

portunities offered in the Seabees, I went home and consulted my wife. After that it was pretty much cut and dry."

After Steelworker "A" school and reporting to NMCB-4, Tidrick's professional career took a positive upward turn. He was promoted to third class and became a supervisor on the Air Mobility Processing Center Project at Kadena Air Base.

"When I was aboard ship, it was very seldom that you saw a third class in charge of a group of people," Tidrick mentioned. "When I got to the battalion, there were third classes in charge of several people and in charge of shops and offices, and I'm thinking, 'Whoa! How come you don't see this stuff in the fleet as often?' I just said to myself that I'm going to have a good time here!"

"The one thing I like about the Seabees is the organizational structure," Tidrick professed. "The unit integrity is a lot better and the senior personnel are always looking out for the junior troops."

Tidrick's plan for the \$14,000 he just earned for extending his naval service is unclear, but whatever the decision, he plans to use the money wisely.

"After I got the money I called home and asked the wife what could we do with it," Tidrick said. "We have two children and one more on the way and folks were telling me about the Thrift Savings Plan and to roll half of the bonus into it. I



Photo by JO1 Rich Henson

**SW3 Richard Tidrick (left) holds a check for more than \$14,000. To the right is CUCM (SCW) Austin Leedom.**

told them 'That decision will be made by the wife and myself.'"

Tidrick has advice for any junior troops who plan to re-enlist after their first tour.

"Always get advice from your senior leaders," Tidrick suggests. "These guys have seen almost everything and they know the real deal."

# Seabees celebrate 60th An

By Linda Wadley

## NCBC Public Affairs

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Some say it was the best Seabee Ball ever. The Navy Band was fantastic, the lights and decorations rocked, and the food was great. These were some of the comments echoed over and over again by guests at the 2002 Seabee Ball.

Almost 950 Seabees and friends gathered together March 2 at the transformed “802 warehouse” here to celebrate the 60th year of the Seabees and the 135th year of the Civil Engineer Corps.

Guest speaker (ret.) Rear Adm. Jack Buffington, who served more than thirty-four years in the Civil Engineer Corps and retired in 1995 after his tour of duty as Chief of Civil Engineers and Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, praised the Seabees’ distinguished history and expressed his honor in being a part of this 60th anniversary.

“I couldn’t be more proud to be here,” said Buffington, who himself served six tours with the Seabees. Buffington went on to say that since 1942 the Seabees have proved themselves over and over again playing a critical role in the success of military operations from World War II, to Vietnam, in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm to their present role in Operation Enduring Freedom. He mentioned that their recent portrayal in the History Channel segment “Dangerous Missions” was an honorable account of their accomplishments and had brought their story to the American public.

EQCM (SCW) Don Turner, who served as Master Chief Pacific Fleet Seabees prior to his retirement, was the master of ceremonies. Turner, who has a strong link to Port Hueneme Seabees after serving with all four Port Hueneme battalions, the Thirty-First Naval Construction Regiment and Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, lent a special local flavor to the festivities. In keeping with Seabee Ball tradition, Turner called for the youngest and oldest Seabee for the cutting of the cake. Capt. Warren Klam, medical officer, Thirty-First Naval Construction Regiment/3rd Naval Construction Brigade, was deemed the oldest Seabee. The youngest Seabee, CA Jason Willcox, coincidentally had reported aboard the Naval Construction Training Center only three days before the ball.

Even from afar, there was no mistaking an important event was taking place. Outside the ballroom, a sky tracker, with rotating lights shot four beams in the sky leading guests to the front door. Guests were welcomed to the ball through a lighted “Seabee Ball” marquee with premier Hollywood flood lights superimposing giant 20-foot Seabee logos on either side of the entrance.

Lt. Dan Grimsbo, Seabee Ball chairman, said heading up the ball was both a unique and rewarding experience. “I’ve learned a lot about areas out of my expertise, such as catering, memorabilia and marketing which will be useful in managing other projects and events. For the Seabee Ball, we just followed our mission statement as a path to success.” Grimsbo said the committee determined they would measure success by the smiles they saw during and at the end of the Seabee Ball. “We saw lots of smiles and heard good comments about the layout, band and the overall look of the ball that people really liked.”

In addition to producing miles of smiles on the faces of guests, the Seabee Ball “Operation Rose Relief” raised \$500 for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society’s Pentagon Assistance Fund through the sale of patriotic corsages.

Summing up the 2002 Seabee Ball Grimsbo said, “It takes the effort of hundreds of dedicated people to make the Seabee Ball a success, from those who volunteer a few hours to those who work all year, to the people who attend the ball to join the fun. And ultimately it’s gathering of friends, new and old, that makes it a memorable event.”



All photos by  
The Color Gu  
est, and oldest se  
Lt. Dave Lu, f  
Navy Marine Cor  
From left to ri  
ball.  
Capt. Jim Cov  
retired, and Capt  
BU2 Jason P  
weapons and equ  
BU1 (SCW) K  
Capt. Jim Co  
Navy Band S  
variety of music

# anniversary in style



PH3 Brian Bynem. Clockwise from top left:  
 [unclear] presents the 60th Birthday cake to Capt. Cowell, Rear Adm Buffington, the young-  
 Seabees present for cutting.  
 NCTC, picks up his reserved corsage for his date. Profits of the corsage sale go to the  
 [unclear] Relief Society's Pentagon relief fund, which earned \$500.  
 [unclear]ght, EO2 Pat Harden NMCB-40, wife Dena, CE2 Joe Speer and Chrissy Forrest enjoy the  
 [unclear]well, CA Jason Willcox, NCTC student (youngest Seabee), Rear Adm. Jack E. Buffington,  
 [unclear] Warren Klam, Medical officer 3rd NCB, (oldest Seabee), cut the 60th birthday cake.  
 [unclear]eterson and BU2 Shannon Coykendall of 31st NCR, demonstrate a variety of Seabee  
 equipment for the guests.  
 [unclear]elly Reno of NCTC gives an outstanding performance of our national anthem.  
 [unclear]well presents Rear Adm Buffington with a Seabee hand-made afghan and coin plaque.  
 [unclear]southwest, Millenium, out of North Island, kept the dance floor going with a modern  
 until midnight when the party ended.

## NMCB-5 completes second phase of homeport training

Story and photos by

JO1 (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky

*NMCB-5 Public Affairs*

NBVC, Calif. – The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Five recently completed the second of three comprehensive homeport exercise driven training (EDT) evolutions here.

EDT II takes the next logical step in training designed to prepare the battalion to function in a contingency situation by concentrating on the improvement of the contingency organizations as a whole, complimenting individual training from the first phase.

Throughout the two-day exercise, the battalion was divided into four major organizations, the Chemical-Biological-Radiological Warfare (CBR) team, the REACT team, the Communications team and "Air Detachment."

The CBR team classes, taught by BUCS(SCW) David Rich, educated the Seabees on how to conduct detailed troop and equipment decontamination, what to do during MOPP (Mission Orientated Protective Posture) casualties, how to operate and read radiacs and how to conduct surveys and monitor CBR situations.

Petty officer Tara Young, CBR platoon commander, was pleased to see the team-based training implemented during EDT II. "I was on the CBR team last year," said Young, "And having the entire CBR team train together in the hands-on style environment inherent to EDT II helps the battalion develop a much better trained and confident CBR team."

Young believes that having the opportunity to actually perform each of the jobs that a CBR team member could be called upon to do vastly improves the amount of learning that takes place. "Everyone on the CBR team gets a chance to see what they have to do, do what they have to do, and practice what they have to do as CBR team members," said Young. "There's a big difference between talking about what wind does to airborne chemicals, and seeing how chemicals actually react to changes in wind direction and distance.



**Members of NMCB FIVE's CBR team conduct CBR Decontamination training during EDT II. Here, Station FOUR, boot and love removal, is demonstrated.**

It really helps a Seabee get the right perspective."

Petty Officer First Class David Williams, REACT platoon commander, echoed Young's remarks about how important it is to apply what Seabees learn in the classroom immediately in the field environment. "Reaction time is always faster than action time," said Williams, "And no matter how well I explain to my troops how to handle a situation as a REACT team member, they won't completely understand their jobs until they do them."

Williams' REACT team also received training on civilian handling procedures, enemy prisoner of war (EPW) handling procedures, crowd control, front gate procedures and vehicle inspections. They also received training on interior guard procedures.

No team is successful without effective communications. EDT II brought together all of the battalion's communicators to coordinate their individual skills as a communication watch section. Each section learned how to set up and break down the command and control center (COC), the alternate COC, and the "Antenna Farm." They also became more familiar with the tools of their trade and reviewed all communication procedures.

NMCB-5's "Air Detachment," a specialized group of Seabees within the battalion designed to be able to go anywhere in the world within 48 hours, received "Air Det" unique training during EDT II. Topics such as REACT operations, CBR preparedness and response, field communications, defensive posture priorities, and area of operations move-in were discussed.

All of the Seabees who were not part of each contingency organization received company level training, designed to enhance small unit leadership. Important subjects covered were patrols, field exercise preparation and professional development.

NMCB-5 used the knowledge gained during EDT I as a stepping-stone for EDT II. By concentrating on the contingency organization, the battalion continued to build upon a solid foundation, preparing both the individual and the group for a variety of very possible contingencies, especially in today's political climate.



**During EDT II, NMCB Five's CBR Team conducted several simulated decontamination stations for training. Here, Seabees are shown the proper way to remove a member's CBR suit by cutting it away.**

# NMCB-4 lay ministers help spread the good word

By **Ens. Joel Baynard**

*NMCB-4 Public Affairs*

CAMP SHIELDS, Okinawa— Being on deployment in a Seabee battalion is synonymous with long days, from the 5:45 a.m. muster until the 5 p.m. quitting time, and even longer weeks. Some weeks Seabees work five-day work weeks, but a six-day work week is not uncommon.

Some week, a Seabee will only get Sunday for a day of rest. Most people take this day to catch up on chores, personal errands, and, understandably, sleep and relax. While everyone else in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four is taking it easy on Sunday, the Command Religious Programs team, Chaplain (Lt.) Brandon Harding and RP3 Fred Hays, are working to serve a higher cause.

Harding spends all week looking out for the morale of the Seabees, not to mention making more time to prepare the sermon for his congregation. Therefore, Sunday is another day

working to prepare the Chapel’s Christian Service for the deployed Seabees and local service members and their families.

Harding decided that devout members of the faith were also needed to help him spread the Word of God.

Harding recently provided his congregation the opportunity to share of their spiritual experience by means of a “Laymen’s Sermon.”

“I did it to let other people grow spiritually,” Harding explained. “To allow them to flex their spiritual muscles. One usually learns more about one’s own spirituality by preparing something, rather than just listening to the Chaplain preach. It was a very uplifting experience and we will do it again.”

The first laymen’s sermon was received with open minds and ambitious hearts of the congregation. The Seabees of “Fabulous Four” were both encouraging and encouraged during their invocations, testimonies, and messages. This experience clearly has left a spiritually amicable impression of the Chaplain in many Seabees’ hearts and minds.

“The Chaplain sat back and let people run the service,”

said BU3 Jeremy Harman. “Everyone had his or her own personal message to share. It was a learning time for everyone as they prepared the weeks before.”

BU3 Corinne Farris also added her praise for the laymen’s sermon. “I was blessed with the privilege of giving the invocation. It was an uplifting night and I was glad to hear my friends give their testimonies.”

CM3 Dawn Brenaman of NMCB-4’s Alfa Company had only begun attending service about a month ago.

“Chaps asked me if I wanted to do this,” Brenaman said. “He encouraged us just to do what we felt was right and not go by any set standard. This was the first time I did a Laymen’s Sermon and I was really nervous and felt ill prepared.”

“I just started talking about how God has affected my life,” Brenaman continued. “This sort of thing is good for fellowship. It gives people a chance to share their experiences, how God has changed their lives, and show their appreciation for their graces.”

## NMCB 40’s Hawaii Det ready to roll

By **JO1 Greg Frazho**

*NMCB-40 Public Affairs*

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Think about how much easier a problem is to solve when you have all the pertinent information. It could be a test, it could be a battle problem or it could be a future construction project. Many would agree that the best way to analyze and evaluate any situation is to go to the scene and look into it first hand.

Recently, the officer-in-charge of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Forty’s Hawaii detachment made a trip to Hawaii to look into future construction endeavors. “A pre-deployment visit is the leader’s recon of various proposed construction sites,” said Lt.j.g. Omarr Tobias, Officer in Charge of the Hawaii Detachment. “You meet points of contact and counterparts and get answers to various questions concerning logistics and support.”

Tobias leads a 34-person crew who has their work cut out for them. “We have three projects at Pearl Harbor, one at Kaneohe Bay, one at NCTAMS and one on the island of Kauai,” said Tobias, a native of Hempstead, N.Y. These projects include the construction of a 3,000-square-foot building, a concrete helicopter pad, a storage shed, a water cooler, a fence around a field and a storage building.

If that sounds like a lot of work for a six-month deployment, it is. Delta Company estimates that these projects will take 1,700 man-days to complete. But the Hawaii Det is enthusiastic and ready for the challenge. Tobias said, “The thing I look forward to most is executing good, solid construction projects, maintaining and increasing readiness and seeing the fruits of our labor.”

## DACOWITS role to be revitalized

### Special news release from the Department of Defense

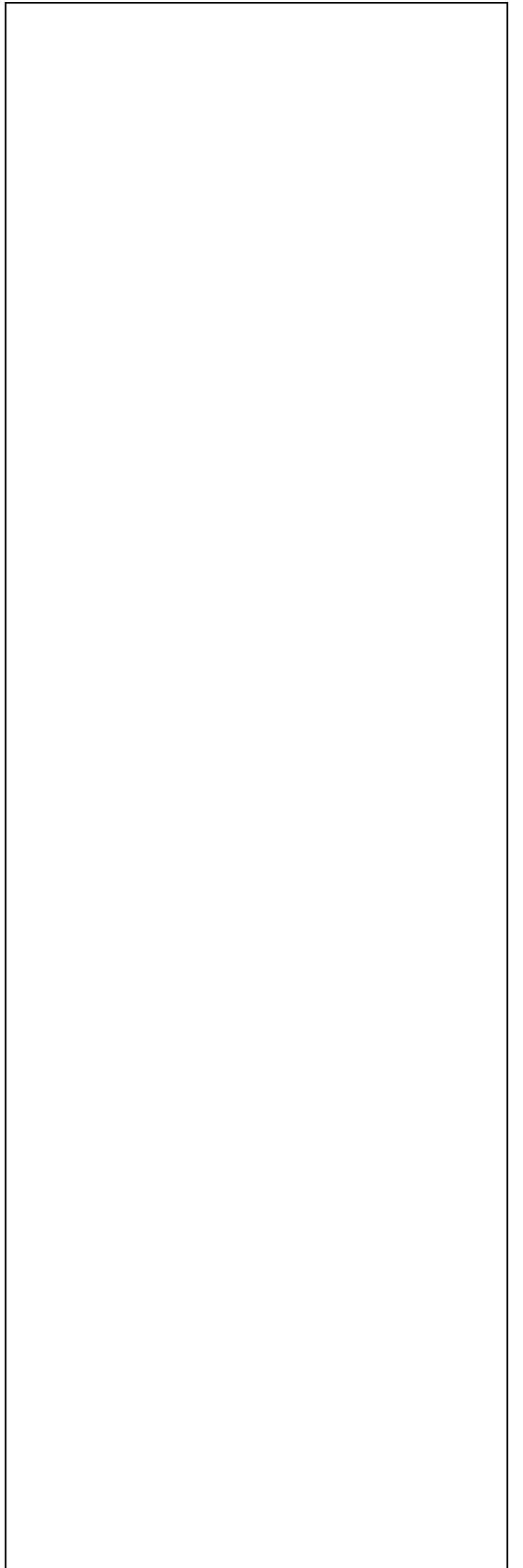
WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of Defense announced March 6 a new and enhanced role for the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS), which will be revitalized in an effort to make it more relevant, efficient and effective.

The 53-year-old charter under which DACOWITS operated focused on attracting more women to military service. Today’s military, with more than 200,000 women currently on active duty, bears little resemblance to that of 1951. Accordingly, the Defense Department has developed an improved charter to better address the needs of women in the military and their professional development.

The committee’s new charter will also broaden its focus to include improving conditions for those who serve and their families, whose sacrifices are yet another form of service to the nation.

The revised charter sets a priority on recruiting and retaining highly qualified professional women, while considering the treatment, employment, integration and well-being of women service members.

The new charter is on the Web at <http://www.dtic.mil/dacowits/charter.html>.





# Shining Sailors...



CWO2 John Blas is administered the Officer's Oath at his recent commissioning by Cmdr. Keith Bluestein, commanding officer of VP-47.



IT1(AW) Judy A. Menzie receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and was announced as NAVSOC HQ Sailor of the Year by Rear Adm. J.P. Cryer, commanding officer of Naval Space Command.



YNCS (AW/SCW) Frederick E. Conklin of VAW-117 receives his third Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Cmdr. John Oberst.



Lt. Cmdr. Michael A. Carambas receives his seventh Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Cmdr. John Oberst, commanding officer of VAW-117.



YN3 Nelson Munoz receives his second Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with his wife Zoila and daughter Lillian by his side from Cmdr. Ralph Snow, CSO of 31st NCR.

For submissions of military awards to this page, of your command or department's shining Sailors, contact PH3 Brian L. Bynem at NBVC Public Affairs.

e-mail: [bynembl@nbvc.navy.mil](mailto:bynembl@nbvc.navy.mil)

Phone: (805) 989-9266

Please send photos or high resolution, 300 dpi, .jpeg digital images with a full caption of all persons appearing in the photo including first names and ranks, the award description, and the photographer's name for recognition.



# At The Movies

**Snow Dogs (PG)**, Starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and James Coburn. A dentist learns of his adoption when his biological mother dies and leaves him a team of Alaskan sled dogs.

**The Royal Tenenbaums (R)**, Starring Gene Hackman and Angelica Huston. An absentee father returns home after many years to make amends to his wife and three genius, adult children.

**Brotherhood of the Wolf (NR)**, Starring Samuel Le Bihan and Mark Dacascos. An 18th-century royal envoy is sent to investigate dozens of grisly murders in central France.

**Collateral Damage (R)** Starring Arnold Schwarzeneger. Family man and firefighter Gordon Brewer is thrust into the world of terrorism after his wife and child are killed in a terrorist bombing.

**Joe Somebody (PG-13)**, Starring Tim Allen and James Belushi. A corporate nobody is physically assaulted by a co-worker over a parking space so he invites the bully to a public rematch.

**The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13)**, Starring James Caviezel and Guy Pearce. A young Sailor is wrongfully imprisoned on a French island where he vows revenge on the men who framed him.

**E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (PG)**, Starring Dee Wallace Stone and Peter Coyote. An alien ends up living with a suburban family when his ship accidentally leaves him behind.

**The Mothman Prophecies (PG-13)**, Starring Richard Gere and Laura Linney. A journalist, following a personal tragedy, becomes involved in a series of bizarre phenomena in West Virginia.

**I Am Sam (PG-13)**, Starring Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer. A mentally disabled father’s legal fight to keep custody of his young daughter after a social worker recommends that the girl be placed in foster care.

**A Walk to Remember (PG-13)**, Starring Mandy Moore and Shane West. A look into the budding romance between a small town preacher’s daughter and the school bad boy.

**Big Fat Liar (PG)**, Starring Frankie Muniz and Amanda Bynes. A perpetual fibber learns a lesson about telling the truth and gets payback after a movie executive steals his idea for a film.

**K-PAX (PG-13)**, Starring Kevin Spacey and Jeff Bridges. A new mental patient that claims to be from another planet has a strange healing effect on his fellow inmates.

**Black Knight (PG-13)**, Starring Martin Lawrence and Tom Wilkinson. An urban hustler is magically transported to the middle ages where he baffles all the lords and ladies with his antics.

**Corky Romano (PG-13)**, Starring Chris Kattan and Peter Falk. A Mafia family hatches the scheme of having one of their relatives become a FBI agent. The problem is, the only family member without a criminal record is an idiot.

**Glitter (PG-13)**, Starring Mariah Carey and Max Beesley. Profiles a young singer, who rapidly goes from orphaned waif to pop-music diva in early ’80s New York.

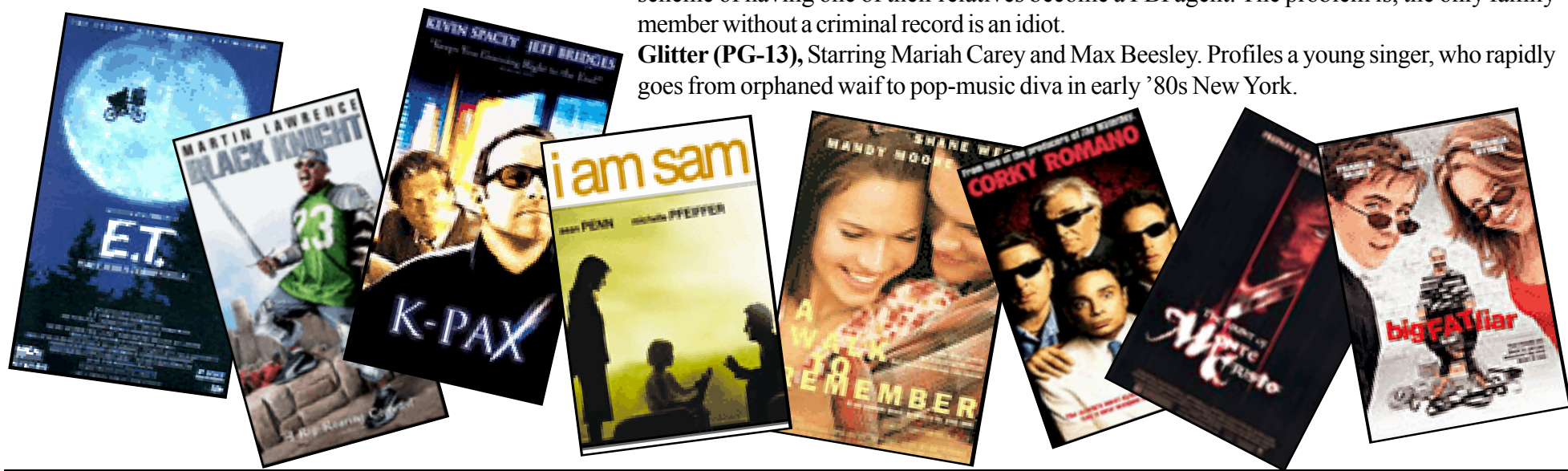
## Playing

### Needham Theater

Thurs., March 14	7 p.m. Count of Monte Cristo
Fri., March 15	7 p.m. Snow Dogs
	9 p.m. The Royal Tenenbaums
Sat., March 16	7 p.m. Special Screening E.T.
	9 p.m. The Mothman Prophecies
Sun., March 17	7 p.m. I am Sam
Thurs., March 21	7 p.m. Brotherhood of the Wolf
Fri., March 22	7 p.m. A Walk To Remember
	9 p.m. Count of Monte Cristo
Sat., March 23	2 p.m. I am Sam
	7 p.m. Big Fat Liar
	9 p.m. The Royal Tenenbaums
Sun., March 24	7 p.m. Collateral Damage

### Point Mugu

Fri., March 15	7 p.m. Joe Somebody
	9 p.m. K Pax
Sat., March 16	7 p.m. Black Knight
	9 p.m. Corky Romano
Sun., March 17	2 p.m. Glitter





# Creating Your Own Life-conclusion from prior issues

By Charles A. Hillig

FFSC

**Point Mugu**  
**Please call 989-8146 for further information or to sign up for classes.**  
Boost Your Self Esteem, March 19 & 26, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116  
Infant Massage, March 19 & 26, 10:00 a.m. – Noon, Bldg. 116  
Moving On (Support Group), March 20 & 27, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116  
Parenting Ages 0-4, March 21 & 28, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Bldg. 116  
Savings & Investments, March 26, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116  
Personal Financial Management, March 27, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 116  
Play Mornings, Every Tues., 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Chapel Nursery  
Preseparation Briefs, Every Thurs., 2 p.m., Bldg. 116

**Port Hueneme**  
**Please call 982-4117 for further information or to sign up for classes.**  
Home Buying, March 19, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Personal Financial Management, March 20, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Create the Life You Want, March 20 & 27, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Parenting Skills, March 21, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Couples' Communication, March 21 & 28, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
TAP, March 25-28, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Single Moms' Support Group, March 28, Noon – 1 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Baby Shower, March 28, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Enriching Relationships, March 28, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Birth Basics Refresher, March 29, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Retired Activities Office, Daily, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Pre-separation Briefs, Every Tues., 2 p.m., Bldg. 1169  
Baby & Me, (New Time and Place), Every Thurs., 11:00 a.m. – Noon, Bldg. 1169

## Taking Action

It's much easier to change what you're doing than it is to change what you're thinking and how you're feeling. A lot of people avoid taking action to change their circumstances until they begin to feel better. Actually, most of them will feel better as soon as they begin to take action. As they say, just do it!

In truth, there doesn't have to be problems in life. You can just as easily interpret them as "challenges that need to be appropriately addressed." The internal questions that we ask ourselves about the things that show up for us actually determines our experience of them. If we ask, for example, "Why is this happening to me?" we are disempowering ourselves through our own self-imposed victimization. Some better questions to ask are "How can I use this experience to grow? What is the lesson for me here?" Quite frequently, break-downs precede breakthroughs.

## Dealing With Rejection

It's totally unreasonable to expect everyone to always accept you 100% of the time. It's just not going to ever happen. If you don't experience rejection as just "information-to-be-considered" and then move on, you're likely to draw negative conclusions about yourself through your erroneous interpretations. For example, "If they don't like my ideas, then that means that they don't like me!"

These self-destructive thoughts are called cognitive distortions and they find their roots in your own personal belief system. Unless you vigorously challenge the truth of these dysfunctional beliefs, and the dark interpretations that they often trigger, they're likely to win by default.

## Changing Ourselves From The Inside

All of us can truly have more than we've got because we can all become much more than we are. But, first things first. If you are ever to become who you could be, you must first become willing to be who you already are. For example, you can only change yourself by first acknowledging where it is that you're truly at. If you're sitting in the living room, then it's going to be impossible for you to try to walk out of the kitchen. You simply cannot change from where you aren't. Period!

Consequently, the opportunity to transform our lives occurs whenever we find the courage to admit to ourselves and to others the whole truth about what's really so for us. In the telling of that truth, we magically create both the energy to transform our lives and the space that we'll need to grow into.

# Electronic warfare conference dates set

By Melody Dates

NAVAIR

The United States Air Force will host the 47th Annual Joint Electronic Warfare Conference at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas May 6 through 9 2002. An EW Intelligence session will be held Monday, May 6 2002. The conference is for U.S. government personnel only. This conference is unique in that it is the only Electronic Warfare (EW) conference where the barriers to complete communication are removed by limiting attendance to active duty military and civilian representatives of U.S. government agencies with a need-to-know. For more information on the 47th JEWEC, visit our web site at <https://jewc.mugu.navy.mil>.

The conference theme is "EW - A Proactive Approach to Emerging Global Operations". Topic areas include: threat, EW systems, new technology systems, EW support systems, information operations, space, avionics and survivability/lethality.

Billeting will be available at the Lackland Visiting Officers Quarters, DSN 473-0047/2556/4277. When calling for a reservation, be sure to mention the group ID number 200100492.

This conference is not considered a training session. A DD Form 1556 may not be used in lieu of check or money order to pay the registration fee. The Air Force point of contact for the conference is John Geise, (937) 255-2960 (DSN 785). The Navy points of contact are Susan Hynds, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, (805) 989-4018 (DSN 351) and Melody Dates, (805) 989-7832 (DSN 351). We can also be contacted via e-mail at [hynds@navair.navy.mil](mailto:hynds@navair.navy.mil) or [datesmj@navair.navy.mil](mailto:datesmj@navair.navy.mil).

## NMCI from Page 12

vided by the Information Strike Force. This provides on-line terminal emulation of e-mail services, directory services, NMCI access, PKI integration, 50MB email/calendar storage per account, and 700MB network personal storage and 100MB network shared file storage per user account, non-classified remote access services, and help desk services restricted to the basic services listed above. The Information Strike Force is only responsible for performance inside the NMCI infrastructure Point of Presence (POP). The unit of purchase for these service categories is referred to as a "seat." One non-classified account is included with each Hybrid Seat procured. Basic Hybrid Seats shall access the NMCI via dial-up, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), cable modem, etc. Basic Hybrid Seats will be configured based upon the following security parameters, which constitute the minimum security load. Basic Hybrid Seats will be configured with the latest operating system security patches, anti-virus software with the most current virus signature profiles and smart card reader (provided as government furnished equipment).

CLIN 0005AB – Enhanced Hybrid Seat (government furnished): An enhanced hybrid seat provides access to NMCI with proper authentication and access control for remote users with workstations not provided by the Information Strike Force. This seat gets full access to NMCI services.

The Information Strike Force is only responsible for performance inside the NMCI infrastructure Point of Presence (POP). The unit of purchase for these service categories is referred to as a "seat." One non-classified account is included with each hybrid seat procured. For the enhanced hybrid seat, the Information Strike Force shall provide for an original configuration load and test of the NMCI standard software load. To be considered a trusted NMCI user and connect within boundary 1, enhanced hybrid seats shall be configured with the standard NMCI software load. A smart card reader will be provided as part of the government provided PC hardware. The workstation hardware (desktop or portable) associated with this seat type is acquired, maintained, and refreshed by the government. The Information Strike Force shall provide help desk support for the accessed services provided from the NMCI and the NMCI infrastructure except for the government furnished and maintained client device. If the NMCI Information Strike Force determines that the cause of a reported problem is the result of workstation hardware incompatibility, hardware failure, or non-standard software failure, the help desk will close this trouble ticket and refer the user to the appropriate government representative for resolution.

Complete specifications for Portable and Embarkable Seats may be found at the NMCI website: <http://www.eds.com/nmci/catalog.htm>

# Navy webport offers innovative way to develop Sailors

By Ensign Vivian Ball

*Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs*

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) – Navy Sailors may soon have another venue for furthering personal development as part of a Task Force EXCEL pilot program. The “EXCEL” stands for Excellence through Commitment to Education and Learning.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark has described Task Force EXCEL as a catalyst, propelling the revolution of naval training and education. It is responsible for overseeing the implementation of pilot programs that are designed to enhance and strengthen the Navy’s training and education structure. Task Force EXCEL will challenge old assumptions, implement new processes, and create new tools that will make a real difference in both the lives of Sailors and the Navy’s war-fighting capabilities. The Chief of Naval Education and Training’s (CNET) newest pilot program, Navy Webport, sounds like a perfect addition.

The objective of Navy Webport is to customize a Navy Internet Web site that provides Sailors career-long access to both Navy professional and personal information.

Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., CNET, is pleased with Navy Webport’s compatibility with Task Force EXCEL’s Five-Vector Model, also known as the “Sailor Continuum.” The Sailor Continuum is the roadmap used by Task Force EXCEL that identifies career milestones, and educational tools and opportunities needed to reach those milestones.

Harms, who has his own Webport page, said, “We must

have a commitment to education and learning that will give our Sailors the tools and opportunities to excel personally and professionally.”

Barbara Stankowski, a member of the CNET Education and Training Strategies (ETS) team, is excited about the large number of professional links contained in Navy Webport and how easy it is to navigate. “Whereas you used to have to go to many different sites to find information about your personal and professional life in the Navy, the Webport streamlines this process, by collecting it all on one, user-friendly, site,” she said.

Currently, the pilot program, being spearheaded by the CNET ETS team, involves six students at Aerographer (AG) “A” school, as well as 15 of their instructors. As part of the pilot, which kicked off in January, the students were given six Navy Webport customized laptops, complete with Internet accounts. This AG pilot class will graduate from the 13-week course in early March, and will head to their fleet assignments with the laptops and Navy Webport in tow. The pilot will include approximately 300 students and instructors from AG, Information Technology (IT), Mess Management Specialist (MS) and Master at Arms (MA) “A” schools, chaplain school and the Senior Enlisted Academy.

In the future, Navy Webport may allow users to view their personal Continuum for career development to find information relating to their specific career path. To help Sailor’s measure individual performance, users can then access their personal career development path and identify skill sets, courses and advancement requirements based on the key

components of the Sailor Continuum.

A key element to the Web site is Navy E-Learning, where a Sailor can access more than 1,400 Web-based courses and check the progress of their individual learning plans. The laptop is loaded with a Navy E-Learning tutorial and user’s guide, AG advancement manual, as well as other useful information. The Webport provides links to important information, like the Navy College Program with the SMART transcript, electric training jackets, and leave and earning statements, while quality-of-life information is accessible in the LIFELines section, as well as e-mail for students participating in the pilot.

“My References” is an area where a Sailor can personalize the site to meet their interest. Here, Sailors can save bookmarks of their choosing and determine the look and content to be displayed on their own page. For example, AG students have available to them a file of AG-related information they can choose to display on their personal page. “Similar customization can be done for each rating, which is why the Webport lends itself to educating and training our Navy’s Sailors,” said Stankowski.

Through its ease of accessibility, wealth of resources and adaptability to suit the differing needs of each Navy rating, the Navy Webport provides a roadmap for Sailors’ professional and personal development.

Sailors interested in learning more about the Navy Webport project should contact Barbara Stankowski at DSN 922-2945 or 1-850-452-2945.

For more information about CNET, go to <http://www.cnet.navy.mil>.

## Navy scientists key players in developing new weapons

By JOC David Nagle

*Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs*

INDIAN HEAD, Md. (NNS) – The March 2 air strikes on al Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan marked the first use ever of thermobaric weapons, a new bomb developed by explosives engineers at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Indian Head Division.

Thermobaric explosives create sustained temperatures and overpressures in a confined structure, such as caves, tunnels or hardened structures. They are fuel-rich explosives that use oxygen from the target to create a longer burn time than conventional explosives, making it more effective in caves and tunnels, while, in a sense, sucking the air from the confined space. Thermobaric weapons are designed for use on laser-guided missiles, to detonate either at the opening of or inside a cave or tunnel.

The Navy began developing thermobaric explosives in the late 1980s and resumed research and development in the mid 1990s, responding to the need for internal blast explosives to defeat hard and deeply buried structures as evidenced during Operation Desert Storm.

NSWC Indian Head scientists developed the PBXIH-135 thermobaric explosive, which not only offers effective blast and thermal effects, but also is extremely insensitive to factors that may cause accidental detonation during transit or storage.

In response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) organized a 60-day joint project with NSWC Indian Head, the Air Force and Department of Energy to identify, test and integrate a solution to deliver a new capability for tunnel defeat.

NSWC Indian Head was responsible for the payload and booster design, as well as loading of the new bombs.

After static and flight tests at full-scale tunnel facilities at the Department of Energy’s Nevada test site, the program culminated in December with a successful flight test of a laser-guided weapon, containing Indian Head’s PBXIH-135 thermobaric explosive, launched from an F-15E Strike Eagle.

For more information on the Naval Sea Systems Command, go to <http://www.navsea.navy.mil>.

## *History maker McKee passes; Navy’s first female selected for flag officer*

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Rear Adm. Fran McKee, the first female line officer in the Navy to be promoted to flag rank, died March 3 after suffering a stroke. She was 75.

A native of Florence, Ala., she was commissioned an ensign on Dec. 4, 1950, and progressed through the ranks to rear admiral (lower half) on June 1, 1976, as director of Naval Education Development. She earned a second star as director of Human Resource Management in November 1978, before retiring June 1, 1981, after 30 years of service.

“It was quite an accomplishment for her to make admiral back then,” said long-time friend and retired Navy Capt. Barbara Nyce. “It wasn’t as accepted then as it is today. She was a very poised and confident person. She touched a lot of people and had a wonderful zest for life.” Those who served with her agree.

“Adm. McKee will always live in the hearts of those who knew her, were inspired by her, profited from her leadership and enjoyed the pleasure of her company,” said retired Navy Capt. Carolyn Prevatte. “For many of us who came after, Fran McKee was a heroine, trailblazer, woman of dignity and integrity, a role model, and a great individual of warmth and humor to whom we owe a great debt.”

McKee served in a variety of stateside assignments including: instructor at Naval Schools Command; mobilization and classification officer at Naval Air Reserve Training Command; officer-in-charge, Naval Women Officers School; head, Special Inquiries and Publications at Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS); and commanding officer of a Naval Security Group Activity. Outstanding proficiency in these assignments resulted in the Legion of Merit with Gold Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Graduating with a degree in chemistry from the University of Alabama in 1950, McKee went on to graduate from Naval Line Officers School, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College, and received a master’s degree from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., in International Affairs in 1970.

“She was a wonderful woman, so warm, smart and human,” added retired Rear Adm. Louise C. Wilmot. “We have the fondest memories of her, including her initiation into the Alabama Hall of Fame.”

Funeral services for McKee will be held April 8, at 12:30 p.m. (local) in the chapel of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Annandale, Va., followed by a burial service with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 3 p.m. Immediately following the ceremony, a reception will be held in the Women’s Memorial at Arlington.

For information on women in the Navy, go to <http://www.navy.mil> and select “Women in the Navy” from the site index.